

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A window picture (robust window picture) is selected as a model window picture, which is unlikely to be influenced by the variations in an environment and selected irrespective of the variations in an environment of pictures assumed to be inputted in a recognition phase. Alternatively, a window picture (stable window picture) is selected as a model window picture, in which the changes in a feature value are small even though an environment is varied. For example, a tracking window picture group is obtained from a registered picture group in which an environment is continuously varied, by tracking window pictures of a basic registered picture. Then, a static extraction window picture is obtained by extracting window pictures as independent pictures from a series of pictures. Then, a window picture selected both in the tracking window picture group and in the static extraction window picture is set as a robust window picture, and picture matching is conducted using the robust window picture.